

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compensating shaft for reciprocating piston engines with at least one compensating weight with an eccentric center of gravity, the compensating weight being connected torsionally elastically to the compensating shaft, wherein the compensating weight ~~(2, 12, 22)~~ surrounds the compensating shaft ~~(1, 11, 21)~~ with its edge zones ~~(3, 13, 23)~~ and a window ~~(6, 16)~~ is formed therebetween in the longitudinal direction, in which an elastic element ~~(18, 25)~~ is provided, which is supported on the compensating shaft ~~(11, 21)~~ in the circumferential direction.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The compensating shaft as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic element is a spring damper unit ~~(18)~~.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The compensating shaft as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic element ~~(25)~~ is made of plastic.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The compensating shaft as claimed in claim 3, wherein the elastic element ~~(25)~~ is made of plastic of elasticity which is graduated in the circumferential direction, the hard central part ~~(26)~~ having a connection ~~(15)~~ to the compensating shaft ~~(11)~~ which is firm in the circumferential direction, and the soft part ~~(31)~~ bearing

against the compensating weight ~~(22)~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The compensating shaft as claimed in claim 4, wherein the plastic part is manufactured by injection molding, the connection to the compensating shaft ~~(21)~~ consisting of a co-injected root ~~(27)~~ projecting into a transverse bore ~~(30)~~ of the shaft ~~(21)~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The compensating shaft as claimed in claim 5, wherein the root ~~(27)~~ comprises a metal reinforcement ~~(29)~~.